

NSC BRIEFING

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28 June 1956

GUATEMALA

- I. A bloody clash on 25 June between police and protesting University students in Guatemala City has brought about a Government declaration of a nationwide "state of siege". Four students were killed and 18 injured in Monday's demonstration, when the police fired on the marching students.
- A. The demonstration was staged in protest against the Government's curtailment of constitutional rights, by means of a declaration of a "state of alarm" in the early hours of Sunday morning, and against arrest of student demonstrators later that day.
- B. Some 200 students have now been arrested, but further disturbances are possible.
- II. The Government's original "state of alarm" decree was designed as a preventive measure following discovery of an alleged Communist plot to "exploit" the 24-25 June celebration of the 1944 overthrow of dictator Ubico.
- A. On 23 June, President Castillo Armas told our Embassy of his concern over the seditious behavior of leftist students and intellectuals.
1. He stated that his own supporters had become "impatient" over his toleration of such behavior.
2. the Army advised Castillo to "clean up" the situation.

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